

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-34 are presently pending in this case. Claims 18 and 34 are amended by the present amendment. As amended Claims 18 and 34 are supported by the original claims, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Dilger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,876, hereinafter “Dilger”); Claims 18, 20, 23-25, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,424,705, hereinafter “Hattori”); Claims 18, 21, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Carr et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,745,363, hereinafter “Carr”); Claims 18, 21, and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as patentable over Woyton (U.S. Patent No. 3,916,326) in view of Jansseune (U.S. Patent No. 6,043,646); and Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as patentable over Carr in view of McDearmon et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040017190, hereinafter “McDearmon”). However, Claim 34 was objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise was indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 34 includes allowable subject matter.

With regard the objection to the drawings, the outstanding Office Action appeared to assert that the figures in a patent application must show the features of every combination of features recited in each claim. However, no authority was cited for this assertion. It is respectfully submitted that 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) only requires that each individual feature

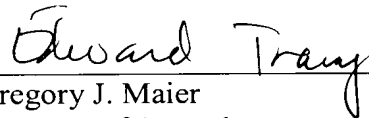
recited in the claims is shown in at least one drawing. As present Figure 17 illustrates the feature recited in Claim 25, the objection to the drawings is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the rejections of record, Apparatus Claim 18 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Method Claim 34. Further, method Claim 34 is placed in independent form including all limitations of apparatus Claim 18. Accordingly, independent Claims 18 and 34 (and Claims 19-33 dependent therefrom) are allowable.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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